

As to the election of species requirement imposed in the outstanding Official Action, applicants hereby provisionally elect GH1F. Specifically elected species of GH1F reads on claim 11. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-10 and 21-27 are generic.

The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to claim 11 wherein the primers GH1F and GH1R are now recited. Support for amended claim 11 can be found in the present specification at page 6, line 10.

It is respectfully submitted that Groups I-V are sufficiently closely related that a search and examination of the entire application can be made without a serious burden. The present invention is directed to the method for detecting naturally-occurring growth hormone mutations; to mutations thereby detected in their use in screening patients for growth hormone irregularities or for producing variant proteins suitable for treating such irregularities.

It is believed that the claims of the present invention are directed to subject matter in which a search and examination completed within a narrow discipline. Applicants believe that Groups II to V are unified because they relate to mutations or variations which were determined using the method of Group I. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Groups I-V are sufficiently closely related that a full search for either group would yield all prior art relevant to the other.

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In light of the above discussion, therefore, it is believed that applicants are entitled to an action on the merits of all pending claims, in their full scope, in the present application. Such action is accordingly respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 11 was amended as follows:

--11. (amended) A detection method according to any preceding claim, which detection method further comprises the use of one or more primer(s) selected from:

CTC CGC GTT CAG GTT GGC (GH1DF);
AGG TGA GCT GTC CAC AGG (GH1DR);
GGG CAA CAG TGG GAG AGA AG (GH2DF);
CCT CCA GGG ACC AGG AGC (GH2DR);
CAT GTA AGC CCA GTA TTT GGC C (GH3DF);
CTG AGC TCC TTA GTC TCC TCC TCT (GH3DR);
GAC TTT CCC CCG CTG GGA AA (GH4DF);
GGA GAA GGC ATC CAC TCA CGG (GH4DR);
TCA GAG TCT ATT CCG ACA CCC (GH5DF);
GTG TTT CTC TAA CAC AGC TCT C (GH5DR);
TCC CCA ATC CTG GAG CCC CAC TGA (GH6DF);
CGT AGT TCT TGA GTA GTG CGT CAT CG (GH6DR);
TTC AAG CAG ACC TAC AGC AAG TTC G (GH7F);
CTT GGT TCC CGA ATA GAC CCC G (GH7DR);
GTGCCCCAAGCCTTTCCC (LCR15: 1159-1177);
TGTCAGATGTTTCAGTTCATGG (LCR13: 1391-1412);
CCTCAAGCTGACCTCAGG (LCR25: 1346-1363);
GATCTTGGCCTAGGCCTCG (LCR23: 1584-1602);
LCR 5A (5' CCAAGTACCTCAGATGCAAGG 3');
LCR 3.0 (5' CCTTAGATCTTGGCCTAGGCC 3');
LCR 5.0 (5' CCTGTCACCTGAGGATGGG 3');
LCR 3.1 (5' TGTGTTGCCTGGACCCTG 3');
LCR 3.2 (5' CAGGAGGCCTCACAAGCC 3');

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LCR 3.3 (5' ATGCATCAGGGCAATCGC 3');
GH1G5 (5' GGTACCATGGCTACAGGTAAGCGCC 3');
GH1G3 (5' CTCGAGCTAGAAGCCACAGCTGCCC 3');
BGH3 (5' TAGAAGGCACAGTCGAGG 3');
GH1F (5' GGGAGCCCCAGCAATGC 3');
GH1R (5' TGTAGGAAGTCTGGGGTGC 3'
GH1R5 (5' ATGGCTACAGGCTCCCGG 3'); and
GH1R3 (5' CTAGAAGCCACAGCTGCCC 3').--